
Ecology & Parks Committee

ESSB 5010

Brief Description: Creating a state park foster home pass.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Honeyford and Hewitt).

Brief Summary of Engrossed Substitute Bill

- Creates a state park foster home pass that entitles the holder and the members of his or her camping unit to free admission and camping at state parks, as well as free access and usage of park campsites at some non-operated, non-state-owned parks.

Hearing Date: 2/22/08

Staff: Jaclyn Ford (786-7339).

Background:

Washington statute provides state park fee discounts and exemptions to several categories of residents. These classes include: (1) senior citizens with a limited income; (2) disabled persons; and (3) disabled veterans. Generally, the exemptions provide free park admission and a 50 percent reduction in camping fees. The disabled veteran exemption, however, provides free park admission, an exemption from camping reservation fees, and free camping.

Summary of Bill:

Washington residents qualify for a foster home pass when they either provide licensed foster care to a child under a foster family home license or are related to that child. When accompanied by a foster child, the pass entitles the holder and the members of his or her camping unit to free admission and camping at state parks.

Applicants must request a pass from the State Parks and Recreation Commission (Commission). The Commission must verify with the Department of Social and Health Services that the applicant is eligible for a pass. The Commission must issue passes for no less than one year.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Commission must also negotiate to allow holders of the foster home park pass free access and use of park campsites at Central Ferry, Chief Timothy, Crow Butte, and Lyons Ferry in Asotin County. The Commission will request reimbursement on a biennial basis.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on February 20, 2008.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.